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Extension Service REVIEW



Our Goal . . .

Conservation of Rural Homes

G. L. SCHUSTER, Director of Extension, Delaware

■ Since 1914 we have had war, depression, overproduction, drought, floods, and what have you. But through it all the county agent has been the means of reaching the people. He has gained prestige among the people. The Federal Government recognized this and, being a partner in the program of agricultural extension, called upon him to aid in the administration of various programs that were not itinerant education, as was promulgated in the Smith-Lever Act.

A Local Program or a National Plan

And so we arrive 25 years later with agricultural-adjustment programs, farm-security programs, rural-electrification programs, surplus-commodity programs, land-use programs, soil-conservation programs, and many others; and in all of them the Federal Government has sought to use the county agent for administrative tasks. Everyone is willing to sacrifice policies and principles in times of emergency, and the records indicate that our extension staff has devoted a large portion of its time to these agencies.

Is the county agent as heretofore to continue to develop a program of work arising from the problems presented by the local people, or is he in the future to center his work about a national plan as proposed by Congress and the Federal Government? The question is with us—the answer is not.

It can be said, however, that the success of extension work in the past has been its local application. If the community was the sick patient, the doctor made a visit. If the trouble was serious, he called in the specialists; and if it was an extremely serious case, he called the State and national authorities. But if the State and national authorities said you were sick and gave you a prescription without consultation with the "family doctor," it might not be the correct diagnosis; and, as a result, the prescription would not obtain the desired results. However, if the "family doctor" calls in the specialists and the State and

Federal authorities when necessary, a more complete diagnosis may be obtained.

Extension work has grown up. The county agent is no longer just a better farmer from another county. He is no longer the back-slapping, joking, hail-fellow-well-met. He is all of that and more, too. He and all the extension workers are well trained. They are college representatives. They are students, educators, orators, and organizers. Their tasks are many and their duties not small. Agricultural science advances, and they must keep up.

Each year more and more of our extension workers are taking time out from their work to improve themselves professionally. During 1939, 770 county agents, specialists, and supervisors from 38 States and Puerto Rico enrolled in the extension courses offered at 13 different land-grant institutions. Such efforts to keep up with the times are highly commendable.

Think, Organize, and Plan

The command is to go forth to the last man. The State is your campus. The question is how? The answers are numerous. We must use the spread-of-influence method. We must think, organize, and plan our work and our time. We cannot hope to come into contact with all the rural people, but by the use of various devices our influence may. Let us spread our influence by the use of the various agencies available.

The questions no longer pertain to subject matter alone. The service is no longer one of just telling Bill Jones which soybean variety to seed or what peach variety to plant. It is no longer one of getting this boy or that girl enrolled in club work and a project completed. It is no longer one of getting the rural women to make match boxes out of tin cans or to use electricity in the home. It is no longer one of collecting home-account records. It is no longer one of what is the best type of broiler bird.

The service is one of shall Bill Jones

grow soybeans and shall he harvest them or plow them under, shall he plant a peach orchard or pull out one, and what kind of a project shall the boy or girl work on. Does it fit into and contribute to the problem of better family life? And why make match boxes out of tin cans and electrify the home? Is it pastime or because Tom Smith has these things? I think not. What becomes of the home-account record? And is not the more fundamental question Shall I go in or stay in the broiler business rather than what is the best-type broiler bird?

Fundamental Questions Concern the Home

It is true that the answers to the first questions are essential, but they come after the fundamental questions have been answered; and the fundamental questions revolve around the preservation of the rural home. The answers to these questions are deep-seated. It will require united effort to get them. It will require counsel with the family and the community. It will require analysis of existing facts and straight thinking in any recommendations as to change. In some instances it will require good sound teaching in order to get the family and the community to change. It will not be easy, but it is the only effort worth while.

Do the various programs fit into the one general pattern of preserving the rural home? Are all of us, county agents, home demonstration agents, club agents, and specialists, doing all we can to make them fit into the general pattern? Programs are only a means to an end; and if they are not united, neither is the end. A united program is like a football team. Each player (program leader) has his position; the goal is the game, and all the players work together for that goal. So let us play our position strongly, cooperate, knock out interference for the other fellow, and be on with the game.

America was developed through the process of establishing rural homes. She will be preserved in their conservation.

EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW

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EXTENSION SERVICE, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C. • C. W. WARBURTON, Director • REUBEN BRIGHAM, Assistant Director

A New Attack on an Old Problem

C. W. WARBURTON, Director of Extension Work

■ You will hear more and more about conservation during the coming year, for the American public is becoming more and more aware of the importance and the necessity for focusing every effort on conserving both human and natural resources.

This is not a new idea nor a new problem. For many years, and increasingly during the last few years, many extension workers, scientists, farm leaders, and farmers have seen the need and striven unceasingly to make citizens aware of wasted resources. Methods of saving the soil, the grass, the trees, and the wildlife, and of conserving water and making the best use of human resources have been developed and put into practice. A great deal of progress has been made, particularly in making the country conservation-conscious; but the land is still wearing out faster than it is being restored, and the people living on this land become a national problem.

We have seen the handwriting on the soil, and conservation plans are afoot for 1940. On the national front, the Department of Agriculture appointed a committee to study the various programs in effect and to recommend ways by means of which the present organization and facilities could be used more efficiently for conservation. As a result, a number of changes are being made in the action programs.

The first administrative action within the Department was to call upon the action agencies to participate to the fullest in the local planning work. Good land use, which means conservation, is the common denominator of all these local plans. County planning gives extension agents this year's best opportunity to make conservation facts and methods understandable and workable. To strengthen the conservation movement, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics has promised to make available about 25 percent of their technical staff to help local committees in their planning.

In addition, the Bureau, in cooperation with the Extension Service and other agencies, will prepare a series of information leaflets for county planning committees cov-

ering such subjects as the following: County land use planning, rural zoning, farm forestry, people and the land, public land-purchase programs, flood control, rural electrification, local governmental service, farm taxes, conservation districts, grazing districts, water conservation and utilization, land tenure, conservation, and others.

When this material is assembled, extension agents will know how to bring the facts to the attention of rural people. The appropriate use of the land and the conservation of human and physical resources dovetail into almost any activity on the extension program.

Many extension workers are doing good work on the problems of land tenure and leasing arrangements. This can be intensified and used to promote conservation.

Land and tax zoning can contribute to conservation. E. J. Haslerud, director of extension, North Dakota, in last month's REVIEW told how county planning had led to better use of land taken in taxes in Bowman County, N. Dak. The zoning laws available in some States also furnish an excellent opportunity for the agent in making his conservation facts effective.

In carrying out their program, extension workers can put greater concentration on certain specific practices most needed in the locality to get effective conservation and which, reinforced with AAA payments, bring the county nearer the conservation goal.

A greater proportion of available AAA funds is being set aside for such soil-building practices. In the 1940 program there is a provision that at least a \$20 conservation payment may be earned on any farm. An additional \$30 is available on any farm for planting forest trees. The project for growing winter-legume seed in the Northwest for use in the Southeast is being expanded, as well as the plan for furnishing grants of aid to farmers for soil-building crops most needed on the farm. All of these and other innovations in the 1940 program to promote conservation can be utilized to good advantage by extension agents.

Where conservation problems are of such a nature that the soil conservation district

can be made an important instrument in working out their solution, the agent can do his part in informing people of the opportunity and aiding them in setting up a district. The Soil Conservation Service has agreed to cooperate with the Extension Service in establishing complete demonstrations in different areas of the district and in bringing results of these demonstrations to the attention of farmers. Soil Conservation Service technicians will also be available to assist extension agents in training AAA committeemen and FSA supervisors in conservation practices.

One stumbling block in the way of good care of the land is poor leases. The Farm Security Administration in 1940 will intensify its effort to help borrowers obtain longer-term and better-written leases, so that conservation practices will repay the tenant as well as the landlord. No loans will be approved when the farm plan calls for growing only one cash crop. The FSA will make grants to destitute farmers only on condition, whenever possible, that the family aided will do a certain amount of conservation work on its land.

A better understanding of farm forestry and shelterbelt planting, now in many an extension program, will contribute to conservation. The Forest Service promises to help by increasing the effort to obtain conservation through contact with private timberland owners, through additional research, and by using the national forests as demonstrations in conservation.

Special conservation programs, such as flood control, development of water facilities, land acquisition, and cooperative grazing, need the understanding and vigorous support of the extension agent in arousing the interest and furthering the participation of the local people.

These are just some of the ways in which extension agents can play a vital part in bringing about adequate conservation by cooperating with other organizations and individuals in the service of rural people to preserve the land and the heritage of those who live on the land.

Armies on the March

O. D. HOLLENBECK, Farm Placement Service

Bureau of Employment Security, Social Security Board

■ A great deal is said today about armies on the march. The lands across the seas are overrun with fighting men. The peoples of Europe and Asia are called from their factories and their fields to fight in the fields of their neighbors across the border. We in America are grateful that no such problem faces us; but we, too, have "armies on the march."

Farm Labor on the Move

America is essentially a mobile nation; our people like to keep on the move, always looking for opportunities to better their economic condition. This movement has been accentuated during the past 10 years by the mechanization of agriculture, which resulted in the displacement of large numbers of farmers and tenants; by the depression in the early thirties, which created a movement back to the farm; and by the droughts of 1934 and 1936, which caused a mass migration from the Great Plains to the Pacific coast.

It has been estimated that between the middle of 1935 and the end of 1937, approximately 221,000 refugees from the Dust Bowl entered California by automobile alone. The totals for 1938 and the first 10 months of 1939 are almost as large—57,307 in 1938, and 46,055 in 10 months of 1939. These figures are impressive when one stops to think that they represent only those who have entered California from the drought States and do not include people who have been displaced from farms in other sections of the country.

Among the various Federal agencies working for the betterment of agricultural workers is the Farm Placement Service, a section of the Bureau of Employment Security of the Social Security Board. The Farm Placement Service was first established during the World War as a unit of the United States Employment Service, then in the Department of Labor.

The Farm Placement Service functions through local offices of the 48 State employment services. It has two principal objectives: First, to serve agricultural labor and farmers; and, second, to direct the migration of agricultural labor both within States and across State boundaries in such manner that surpluses and deficits of labor will be reduced to a minimum. In connection with migratory farm labor, the Farm Placement Service places particular emphasis on preventing migration where there is no definite information about employment.

At the present time there are approximately 1,650 public employment offices strategically located in the various States; and to supplement these offices, during peak harvest seasons, many temporary offices are opened. Nine full-time farm placement supervisors have been appointed for work in 7 States which are primarily agricultural in character; and in 11 States, with a smaller amount of agricultural activity, 11 part-time farm placement supervisors perform necessary agricultural placement functions. All are Federal employees serving on the staffs of their respective State directors in order that counsel and direction may be given to the personnel of local offices in serving the needs of both farm workers and growers. The farm placement supervisors make it their business to know agricultural labor needs within their States through careful study of crop acreages and man-hours needed to cultivate and harvest crops. They cooperate closely with State extension service directors, county agents, farm organizations, and State departments of agriculture. In the 18 States where farm placement supervisors have been appointed, farm placements will approach the million mark for the year 1939.

In other States, more heavily settled, with smaller farms, and where the land is productive of diversified crops, the need for a specialized service with full-time farm placement supervisors has not yet become acute. However, the employment services in those States are constantly being given assistance in working out programs which will serve their agricultural labor needs, and supervision of farm placement work is assumed by the directors of the State employment services or by members of their administrative staffs. It will be seen, then, that every public employment office is in effect a farm placement office.

Drought Drives Farmers West

One of the major problems with which the Farm Placement Service has had to contend during the past 3 years has been the mass migration of agricultural workers; the movement from the Dust Bowl of America to the West Coast States, especially to California, is particularly well known. In an effort to halt this aimless wandering, three information campaigns have been conducted by the Farm Placement Service—two during 1938, in April and November, and the third during August 1939. Directors of State employment

services in 11 Midwestern States were requested to release information through the newspapers and the radio, in order to advise all people contemplating a trip to California or other West Coast States in an effort to obtain work that, unless they were definitely assured a job when they arrived, the trip would be useless.

The employment services and the Farm Placement Service were ably assisted in this effort by the Radio Service of the Department of Agriculture which provided the use of its regular "Farm Flashes" service to get the information out to rural areas. More recently, extension workers in Oklahoma and Arkansas (States contributing a large percentage of migrants) have been making a special effort to pass the word along to farm families that undirected migration to California results only in misfortune, privation, and untold hardships.

Although there is no way to check the results of such a campaign accurately, it is, nevertheless, interesting to note that the 1938 figures of migration to California show a decrease of 21,025 over the previous year, with noticeable drops during the months following the release of the information. The 1939 figures increased from 2,390 in January to 6,104 in October; the only month showing a decrease over the previous month was September, following an informational campaign in August. Whatever significance is attached to these figures, there is no doubt of the necessity for informing the largest possible number of people of the dangers of undirected migration and for doing so on a widespread and organized basis.

West Reaches Saturation Point

However, broadcasting advice through the radio and newspapers is not enough. For one thing, it frequently does not reach the people who need it most. The fact is that migrants still continue to head for California with the feeling that in that State there is work for all and that they are escaping from a situation at home which offers little or no opportunity. California has long since reached the saturation point in its absorption of out-of-State labor seeking agricultural work, and still migration into the State continues in ever-increasing numbers. Until comparatively recent years there were fertile lands in the West to which people might still migrate, but today there is no more land available—there is only the deep Pacific. It is apparent that this situation merits the highest, the best, and the most earnest and humane thought and consideration. It has gone beyond a local, a State, or even a regional problem; it is a problem of Nation-wide scope and is being recognized as such by the Federal Government.

County agents can be especially helpful to the Farm Placement Service by encouraging individual farmers to make more extensive use of their local employment offices. It should be emphasized that the facilities of the

Farm Placement Service are offered to both farmers and farm labor at absolutely no charge to either. The aim of the Service is to "match jobs and men," to know the character of the work required, the number of men that will be necessary in each instance to care for the employer's needs, the wages to be paid, the living accommodations to be provided laborers, the cost of transportation, and, above all, the sources of supply nearest to the field of activity from which labor can be recruited.

Protecting South Dakota Soil Through Conservation District

■ Protecting their soil is the chief concern of South Dakota farmers living in adjacent corners of Brown and Marshall Counties on the 175,000 acres of land included in the Brown-Marshall Soil Conservation District.

Soon after the Soil Conservation Districts Enabling Act was passed by the South Dakota Legislature in 1937, the proposed district was voted upon and approved by more than a two-thirds majority of the landowners within the proposed district. A charter was granted by the State, and the district began operations under the direction of five supervisors.

The need for a program of soil conservation became evident following the serious wind-erosion problem which developed in 1934 and became increasingly acute in the years following. Gale Peppers, county agent in Marshall County, and Benjamin H. Schaub, Brown County agent, cooperated in putting on an educational campaign. Farmers in the area who were taken to the wind-erosion-control demonstration area at Huron, S. Dak., returned feeling that several of the measures used there might be successful on similar problems in their own communities. Each of the 370 farmers in the area had a chance to learn of the facts of erosion and steps which might be taken to help the situation. L. M. Sloan, formerly a Nebraska county agent, now with the Soil Conservation Service, furnished detailed information on setting up the district and getting off to a quick and smooth start.

About 200 farmers have signed 5-year cooperative agreements, including a program of farming operations worked out for each individual farm by the farmer and the technical staff of the Soil Conservation Service. In these plans consideration is given to the field layout, the crop rotation, the proper management of pastures, the retirement of eroded areas to perennial grass, the planting of trees, proper tillage practices, conservation of wildlife, and proper utilization of crop residues.

In accomplishing these objectives, the Farm Placement Service needs and welcomes the cooperation of the Extension Service and of other Federal, State, and local agencies engaged in serving the requirements of agriculture.

In cooperative effort, much can be done toward solution of the serious problems currently confronting farmers and farm laborers; and, most important of all, real progress can be expected toward complete demobilization of our "armies on the march."

The agronomic practices which are used include strip cropping (alternating strips of small grain and row crops 8 to 20 rods in width); long-time grass rotations; seeding of perennial grasses for pasture, hay, and seed; seeding of emergency cover to stabilize active erosion; and seeding of winter cover crops.

The pasture-management practices include deferred and rotation grazing, proper rate of stocking, and proper distribution of salt and water to promote uniform grazing.

Windbreaks Planted

Forestry practices include the planting of primary 10-row windbreaks, the planting of intermediate windbreaks of 2 to 4 rows (the farmer to plant secondary tree strips later as needed), and the planting of small areas to trees and shrubs to provide cover and feed for wildlife. The primary 10-row tree strips, which are to be about 7 rods wide, will be planted approximately every half mile over a considerable portion of the area adapted to tree growth. These strips are to be placed along section and half-mile lines. The field buffer tree strips, which are to be 2- to 4-row, or 2 or 3 rods wide, will be placed in between the primary strips at suitable distances to prevent harmful wind erosion. The distance separating the buffer strips will be based on a theory, already worked out, that a windbreak of trees will prevent erosion for a distance of 20 times the height of the trees leeward and 10 times the height of the trees windward.

The Forest Service, through the Prairie States forestry project, is assisting the district supervisors by the planting of shelterbelts. Last year 90 miles of trees went into the Brown-Marshall Soil Conservation District in shelterbelts, and many miles of buffer strips were planted. In Brown County alone 452,000 trees were planted, and final statistics will show about as many planted in Marshall County.

The purpose of the activities in the conservation district is to level off the huge soil drifts occurring in farmyards, fence rows, and fields and to restore the fertility of the land, building up a rich soil which will withstand or prevent wind erosion.

The first attempt at revegetating farmyards and fence rows was made with tractors and scrapers; but it was decided later that the better plan would be to let the wind do the work over a period of years because it was found that if the soil were restored to its original level by mechanical means, with no vegetation to hold it there, it would blow out again and refill fence rows, resulting in a waste of time and money.

From the work done so far, the following conclusions have been reached: First, there must be a long-time program; second, before any effective headway can be made in permanently controlling the blowing of soil, the tree strips must be far enough along to check the wind.

"The plan of conservation operation covers a 5-year period; but it has already become evident that it will take a number of years to get the soil back to normal, as it seems most practical to bring about that condition which will let the wind repair the damage it has done," commented Rex Bankert, formerly assistant extension agronomist, now with the Soil Conservation Service.

About one-third of the land in the conservation district is in the hands of insurance companies. Years of poor crops and unstable markets had discouraged the farmers, but as the program of the conservation district gets under way they have renewed hope. Much of the less-eroded land is now under control, and the farmers begin to see what can be done in the future. This year Brown County farmers of the district had the best corn crop since 1932. Corn land yielded as much as 50 bushels an acre, and this without an extra amount of precipitation. Farmers are encouraged.

In the territory adjoining the Brown-Marshall District, farmers have circulated petitions asking that 9 additional tracts of land be added to the conservation area. One addition of 6,400 acres has already been added, and another addition of 38,000 acres is about to become a part of the district area.

■ Interest in electric equipment has followed the extension of electric lines in Illinois. A record attendance of 42,000 persons participated in 8 rural-electrification farm-equipment tour meetings held in the central part of the State. It is estimated that 50 percent of the farms of the State will have electricity by the end of 1940.

4-H Camps

There was an increase of approximately 800 in the number of boys and girls attending 4-H Club camps in New Mexico last summer.

Texas Frame Gardens Defy the Weather

■ Frame gardens are growing vegetables for farm families in Texas, in bad weather and in good weather, whether it rains or not. Home demonstration agents are enthusiastic about the method, and frame gardens have been planted in 200 Texas counties with 10 to 200 home demonstration club members in each county planting such a garden.

The home demonstration frame garden seems to go back to Mr. and Mrs. Charley Heck, of Castro County. The Hecks moved to the plains of Texas from the Midwest. They were wheat farmers. Limited rainfall, winds, and blowing sand made the growing of vegetables difficult except in favorable times of the year. Mrs. Heck realized that green vegetables were needed every day rather than just every once in a while if her family's health was to be assured. Therefore the cold-frame was put to use growing vegetables. It gave some protection, and it required less water.

Soon they had not one structure but a whole back yard full, and not one or two vegetables but a number—asparagus, beans, cabbage, carrots, chard, kale, lettuce, endive, Chinese cabbage, dandelion, sorrel, mustard, English peas, yellow squash, beets, radishes, tomatoes, salsify, and onions.

Various materials—glass, cello-glass, and muslin—were used as covers. On cold nights, additional protection was provided. During the favorable summer months, an endless variety of vegetables was grown in generous amounts in the open.

Later, a home demonstration agent, Izora Clark, was employed by Castro County. The

methods followed by the Hecks came to her attention. She studied them and talked about them to other women and to other county home demonstration agents. The practice began to spread.

In 1935 agents began to mention the gardens in their monthly reports. Some of the early stories came from Tahoka, Lynn County, about 100 miles south of Castro County.

"Sixteen varieties of vegetables and seven kinds of flowers were planted in a coldframe 15 feet wide and 42 feet long by Mr. and Mrs. M. O. Canady on February 26," reported Sylvia Rodd, home agent of Lynn County, in early 1935. "This is the method our home demonstration clubwomen have of raising an early garden.

"The soil is first spaded and fertilized, and then the rows are marked 10 inches apart. This made, at the Canadys, 50 rows 15 feet in length. The coldframe was covered with canvas at a cost of \$3.59. The frame was built from scrap lumber.

"This makes the fifth year that the Canadys have planted a coldframe, and they have found the practice to be profitable. Fresh vegetables are used from the coldframe weeks before the regular garden can be planted." Miss Rodd reported, too, that there were 37 of the gardens in use in Lynn County. One club member, Mrs. A. L. Dunagan, canned 70 quarts of spinach from her coldframe.

Interested in the frame gardens, Grace I. Neely, extension specialist in food preservation, visited Lynn County in 1936 to see what was going on. She found all the claims for the miniature gardens true; and, in addi-

tion, she found that the vegetables were of surpassing flavor and tenderness. The extension organization began to push the practice.

In the latter part of 1937, the necessity for having a definite name for the device became evident. The term, "frame garden," had been used here and there. It seemed to be the best name to use.

In early 1938 a printed leaflet bearing the title, *Frame Garden Suggestions*, was published and a special drive was made to get frame gardens planted, with the result that 3,122 were reported for 1938.

"Frame gardens are springing up like mushrooms in Menard County," reports Mrs. Lura Hollingsworth, home demonstration agent. Last year 80 members of the home-demonstration clubs made out canning budgets for their families and planted frame gardens to supply the vegetables needed. Their work was so successful that they are planning to do more of it this year. Some of the frame gardens were built of native stone, and some were equipped with subirrigation systems.

Frame Garden in Schoolyard

Energetic 4-H Club members of the Thornberry community in Clay County supplied vegetables for their hot school lunch last year from a frame garden which they had built and planted under the direction of the county extension agents, M. S. Duncan and Ruby E. Hayden. The garden, 4½ feet wide and 48 feet long, was located on the south side of the schoolyard. Its burlap cover was removed whenever direct sunlight was available.

The women of Scurry County are enthusiastic about this new type of garden because in the past wind, hail, sand, and lack of water have greatly limited the garden growing season. Nellie Cundiff, home demonstration agent in Brooks County, grew vegetables for demonstration purposes in a frame garden on the courthouse lawn. The garden aroused a great deal of interest among rural visitors when they came to town.

In one extension district more than 1,500 frame gardens were made and planted last year. The Pear Valley Home Demonstration Club in McCulloch County on December 4, 1939, served turnip greens from their frame gardens to the Rotary Club and Lions' Club as one item on their menu of home-grown products.

There are no figures yet available for the 1939 growing season. Several counties reported more than 200 gardens each during the early spring and summer months. There is no doubt that the total will far exceed the number reported for 1938.

Many a Texas family has solved the green-vegetable problem with frame gardens.



Missouri Pasture Contest Promotes Good Farming

O. T. COLEMAN, Extension Specialist in Soils, Missouri

■ Serving the threefold purpose of interesting farmers in adopting new soils- and crops-improvement practices, of providing an extra stimulus for those already using some of these practices, and serving as a vehicle for the presentation of extension teaching, the Missouri pasture contest has just closed its eighth consecutive year. The number of entries has increased from 58 in 12 counties the first year of the contest to 239 entries living in 44 counties this last year.

The contest was started in 1932 through the cooperation of the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and was conducted only in western Missouri; but in 1934, through the added cooperation of the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, it was made State-wide. At first it was based primarily on the improvement made in permanent pastures and the management of and returns from livestock produced on pasture. In 1936, supplementary pastures were added; and, in order to equalize competition among contestants as much as possible, the State was divided into seven districts on the basis of type-of-farming areas. In 1939, the contest was expanded to include the effect of the whole farming system upon fertility and erosion and the returns in the form of livestock and livestock products from feeds produced on the farm to supplement pastures.

Permanent Pasture Rated

In 1934 and 1935, division 2 was added to the contest. This was designed to make the contest fit into the plan for increasing the acreage of permanent pasture on contracted acreage as provided in the AAA program. The score card for this division was based on (1) the general management and improvement of the permanent pasture acreage in the county; (2) the percentage of farmers in the county seeding 5 or more of their contracted acres to permanent pasture; (3) the percentage of all contracted acres in the county seeded to permanent pasture; and (4) the methods generally used that could add to the success of getting stands of grasses and legumes, such as efficient preparation of the seedbed, using adapted seeds, and following recommended fertilizer practices.

In 1936, 1937, and 1938, the score of each contestant was based on (1) the amount of pasturage obtained from both the permanent

and supplementary pastures on the whole farm; (2) the condition of the permanent pasture; (3) the efficiency of the whole pasture system, including the supplementary pasture in the control of soil erosion; (4) the effect of the pasture system upon soil fertility as determined by the acreage of legumes used, care and use of barnyard manure, and amount of agricultural limestone and commercial fertilizers used; and (5) the balance of the pasture system as it relates to the entire farm on the basis of producing the pasture needed by the livestock.

Score Embraces Farm Efficiency

In 1939 each entrant's score was based on his efficiency in (1) the production of livestock and livestock products as determined by the amount of feed grown, the records of gain on all livestock on the farm, and the amount of livestock produced; (2) the maintenance of soil productivity as explained in Missouri Experiment Station Bulletin 405; and (3) the entrant's efficiency in supplying and utilizing the pasture needed by the livestock. The first and third points in this score card were obtained from the records kept on the "Pasture, Feed, and Livestock Production Summary" form, and a work sheet for determining the productivity and erosion balance was provided for determining the second point in this score.

This contest since its beginning has been under the general supervision of a State committee consisting of one representative each of the Kansas City and St. Louis Chambers of Commerce and one representative each for the extension projects in field crops, dairy and animal husbandry, soils, and, during the last 2 years, soil conservation. The contest in each county has been under the local supervision of a county committee of three, approved and appointed each year by the director of the Agricultural Extension Service. It is the duty of the county committee to visit and score the farms of the entrants and to determine the highest-ranking individuals in the respective counties. After this is done, the records are sent to the State committee for final decision.

And, as to how serviceable it has been, let us take Newton County as an example. The county, located near a large outlet for milk, seemingly offered unusual opportunities for dairying. And dairying had become an important industry in that county, but costs for concentrates and grain feed were holding prof-

its down to a point where there was very small return for the labor expended. County Agent Frank Darnall saw in the pasture contest an opportunity to interest farmers in methods that would not only reduce these costs but increase the conservation of their soil as well, so he encouraged them to enter. To further increase interest in the contest, local prizes, in addition to the State prizes, were offered.

Contest Ties in With Extension Program

Mr. Darnall tied the pasture contest into his county record-keeping program and his soil-conservation and pasture-improvement programs. The dairymen taking part in these programs discovered that sweetclover and such new crops as Korean lespedeza, winter barley, and improved varieties of rye would add greatly to the amount of pasturage their herds received and materially reduce production cost and erosion and fertility losses. This fact was made quite clear to them through the monthly reports that they compiled and sent to the county agent's office, by the yearly summary of these, and by the final checkup made upon fertility and erosion losses on the entrants' farms. Soon more dairymen wanted to enter this pasture-improvement contest, and for the past 3 years the county has had more entries than any other county in the State. Naturally, these entries have served well as local demonstrations in their communities so that the pasture-improvement, soil-conservation, and farm-management practices they have adopted have spread widely throughout the county.

It seems as the contest progresses that it has become more inclusive until now it not only includes the whole farm from the standpoint of controlling erosion and maintaining soil fertility but considers how efficiently the feeds needed by the livestock are produced and handled. Although this complicates the contest considerably and makes a great deal more work for those involved in it, from a long-time basis the success of a pasture program, as well as almost any other program followed on the farm in Missouri, will depend on how efficiently the farmer can produce the feed needed by the livestock and how well he can utilize this feed for the production of livestock and livestock products and, at the same time, maintain his basic resource, the soil, through the control of erosion and by following practices that will maintain the productivity of the land.

A Maine 4-H Record

In Maine last year, 96.4 percent of all 4-H Club projects undertaken by boys and girls were satisfactorily completed. In Kennebec County, every club received a seal of achievement, representing full completion of all requirements. In Penobscot County, not only did every club receive these coveted seals, but every club member completed every project for which he was enrolled.

What Do AAA Checks Contribute to a Permanent Agriculture?

What do farmers and their families do with their AAA checks? Are the checks used to add to the permanent resources? Has the standard of living for rural families been raised? Or has the money gone down a rat hole with no visible effect on the rural population? The subject has often been argued pro and con; and in Woodruff County, Ark., a survey was made to determine just how this money was spent. The results are briefly summarized below, together with a Missouri editor's version of one example which seemed to him representative of what might be accomplished with AAA checks.

Improved the Farmsteads

■ A recent survey in Woodruff County, Ark., conducted jointly by the AAA and the county extension agents, showed that a large percentage of the AAA checks was being used to make permanent improvements on the farmstead, to pay old debts, and to pay taxes, according to Mrs. Flora Friend, home demonstration agent, and W. B. Vinzant, county agricultural agent. The payment of old debts was made by 45.3 percent of the families questioned, and taxes were paid with AAA checks by 14.2 percent of the families.

Part, or all, of the earnings under the program were used to build new homes by 9.3 percent of the 225 families answering the questionnaire; and 28.8 percent of the families reported houses remodeled. Houses were painted with the money received by 10.6 percent of the families; houses were screened by 32.8 percent; and yard fences were built or repaired and shrubbery purchased by 12.8 percent.

Sinks were installed by 4.4 percent of the families; 9.7 percent purchased furniture; 17.7 percent bought mattresses; 13.3 percent bought rugs; 19.5 percent bought curtains; and 8.4 percent made other home improvements. Motors were bought by 17.7 percent; 24.8 percent bought radios; 4.8 percent, refrigerators; 7.3 percent, electric irons; 3.1 percent, washing machines; and 1.7 percent, other equipment.

Fencing was bought by 20 percent of the families surveyed; tractors were bought by 11.1 percent; automobiles, by 4.4 percent; farm trucks, by 7.1 percent; and farm machinery, by 4.8 percent. New barns were built by 1.3 percent of the families; 0.4 percent built corncribs; 8.8 percent built poultry houses; and 0.4 percent built seed houses.

Work stock was bought by 2.3 percent of the families; milk cows, by 22.6 percent; purebred beef cattle, by 4.4 percent; grade

cattle, by 1.3 percent; purebred hogs, by 19.5 percent; and baby chicks by 17.7 percent. Land was purchased by 7.5 percent of the families; tuition to school or college was paid by 4.4 percent; and miscellaneous expenditures were listed by 14.2 percent of the families.

Used for Conservation

■ "If Secretary Wallace and his coworkers want a perfect example of soil conservation resulting from the AAA program, they need go no farther than the farm of John W. Logan, near Prairie Home in Cooper County, Mo.," writes Farm Editor Charles Callison

John W. Logan built up his farm with AAA checks.



in a recent issue of the Boonville (Mo.) Advertiser.

In a two-column illustrated story, Mr. Callison goes on to tell how Mr. Logan, on the "old home farm" on which he was born 60 years ago, has applied all of his AAA payments from the first corn-hog program down to his parity payment for 1939 to the building of terraces and the application of limestone.

On receipt of his 1939 parity check the second week in November, Mr. Logan terraced the last 50 acres of cropland on the old home place, making a total of 160 acres now completely terraced on the 226-acre farm. He also had lime piled up at the edge of the field ready to spread as soon as the terracing was completed. As soon as this lime is spread on the 50 acres of newly terraced cropland, he will have applied 400 tons of lime, or 2½ tons per acre, to all his cropland.

On an additional 100 acres which he owns adjoining the home place, he has terraced and limed 65 acres with the proceeds of his cooperation with AAA programs.

All of Mr. Logan's terraces have been built with county road machinery, which the county rents to farmers for soil-improvement work at \$2 an hour, including a driver for the caterpillar tractor and a man to operate the grader, or \$1.60 an hour including only the driver for the tractor. Mr. Logan operated the grader himself, thereby saving 40 cents an hour.

County Agent Paul Doll and Assistant Agent Robert Kaye, who checked the terraces on Mr. Logan's last 50 acres when completed in November, stated that 2¾ miles of standard, broad-base terraces were built in 4 days. The machinery was in use 26 hours, and the cost, besides Mr. Logan's own labor, was \$41.60.

■ More than 1,000 farms and rural homes in North Carolina were on exhibition before 6,208 persons during the 149 tours conducted in 57 counties by farm and home demonstration agents in 1939. Of the 149 tours, 116 included visits to outstanding rural homemaking projects as well as inspections of improved agricultural practices.

■ Approximately 50,000 Kentucky farmers took triple superphosphate instead of cash payments in the agricultural conservation program last year. They ordered a total of 37,925 tons, or 4,661 tons more than last year. Graves County was in the lead, with 1,088 tons of phosphate ordered.

Vermont County Meets Changing Markets

This is the third of a series of land use planning articles based on some of the best examples presented on the National Farm and Home Hour radio program each Thursday. The facts on the agricultural background of the county and its people discovered and used by this New England committee illustrates the intensive study which precedes the land use recommendations.

■ The story of Addison County, Vt., is one of continual change. Starting with the self-sufficient type of agriculture, Addison County farmers have switched successively to wheat and beef, Merino sheep, market hay, cheese and butter, and fluid milk—each change having been the result of competition from without the county's borders.

Addison County contains 483,840 acres. The eastern third of the county is mountainous, and includes the main range of the Green Mountains. The rest of the county is in the Champlain Valley, and Lake Champlain forms the entire western boundary of the county. The average annual precipitation ranges from about 40 inches in the eastern part of the county to 32 inches in the western part.

Originally, the region was covered with a dense forest, though, at the present time, most of the land in the Champlain Valley has been cleared for farming purposes. According to the 1935 census, nearly one-fourth of the land area of the county was not in farms. Most of this area was in woodland; and, in addition, nearly 27 percent of the farm land was in woods. Thus, in 1935, about 44 percent of the area of the county was in timber.

The early settlers were chiefly of English origin, coming principally from Massachusetts and Connecticut. About 1850, a considerable number of settlers from Ireland entered the county; and, during the last 25 years, a good many French-Canadians have purchased farms there. With these two exceptions, most of the people in the county at present are descendants of the original settlers.

The biggest problem facing Vermonters is to keep their agriculture in tune with their markets. Outside competition has made them change their type of agriculture every few generations, and it would seem that Addison County has changed more often than any other Vermont county.

The first type of agriculture in the county was self-sufficient. Every family had a garden with parsnips, carrots, turnips, cabbage, potatoes, and pumpkins; maple sugar, butter, and cheese were produced; and every farmer had a flock of sheep.

Then in the early 1800's, with towns springing up in the East to afford good markets for wheat and beef, farmers turned to producing

these commodities in large quantities. But soon Vermont wheat and livestock farmers were feeling sharp competition from western New York and Ohio, as well as from foreign producers. Because their farms were small, Vermont farmers could not grow wheat as cheaply as the farmers on the large farms in the new West, nor could they meet the competition of corn-fed and grass-fed cattle from the prairies.

Accordingly, the mainstay of Addison County farmers soon became Merino sheep—a development which reached its peak in the middle of the nineteenth century with individual rams selling for as high as \$5,000 a head. There was a good wool market nearby in the textile mills of southern New England. One hundred years ago Addison County produced more sheep and wool in proportion to either acreage or population than any other county in the whole United States. In 1840 there were 1½ million sheep in Vermont, or nearly 6 sheep to each person. Addison County at that time had 375 sheep to the square mile. Nearly 100 years later, the 1935 census showed that there were less than 30,000 sheep in the entire State of Vermont; and in Addison County, which still had more sheep than any other county in the State, there were only 8 sheep per square mile—a decline of 98 percent in Vermont's sheep industry.

It was competition resulting from free grazing land in Montana and Wyoming that caused Vermont farmers to turn from wool to market hay, cheese, and butter. But with the development of a big dairy industry in Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota, and with farmers from these States shipping their butter to eastern markets, Vermont farmers changed again—this time to fluid milk which they shipped to Boston and New York.

Three Major Problems

The farm people in Addison County are primarily concerned with three local problems: (1) how to get new dairy barns on farms that are switching from market hay to fluid milk; (2) how best to use abandoned cropland not suitable for farming; and (3) how to get good farm-to-market roads in certain sections of the county which have heavy

clay soil. The county land use planning committee has been working enthusiastically to solve these problems for 4 years now. During the last year, community meetings were held in four towns, and plans are under way to hold community meetings this year in all townships in the county.

The solution of the first problem—that of shifting the farms in the western part of the county over from market-hay farms, with practically no facilities for keeping dairy cattle, to dairy farms—requires a considerable amount of capital. The desired change, however, is taking place fairly rapidly.

The virtual abandonment of some areas—particularly in the eastern part of the county—that are better suited for forestry or recreation purposes than for farming, has caused the second major problem facing Addison County farmers. County committee members are coping with the twin questions of how best to use land that has been abandoned for farming purposes and, in some localities, of what to do about farms that have not yet been abandoned but are in the process of abandonment. The county is confronted with the problem of maintaining roads and transporting children to school in certain communities where only a few families are left, and problems of taxation arise in some towns which have large areas of abandoned land.

Farm to Market Roads

The third problem of importance is that of providing adequate farm-to-market roads in the western part of the county where the soil is heavy clay. The following extract from the report of the Addison County Land Use Planning Committee indicates the cooperative spirit whereby farmer, technician, and administrator are working together toward common goals:

"Of the 1,018 miles of dirt and graveled roads in the county, most are in fairly good condition and probably do not affect the type of farming very much, except for the area along Lake Champlain. In this area the dirt roads are impassable during the mud seasons, and this condition has prevented the development of many otherwise good farms. Large tracts of land suitable for alfalfa growing are practically abandoned, being only partially used for young-cattle pasture. These pastures are rapidly becoming depleted. During the past 2 years, the Federal-State farm-to-market road program has been effective in getting many miles of these dirt roads graveled. It is estimated that another 5 years of this program will be sufficient to gravel all important roads in this section, and such a program would do much to develop the farms in this area."

Presenting the Parent-Education Program

■ Educating parents to develop their children to the best advantage requires good old common sense, according to Home Agent Elizabeth Berdan of Bergen County, N. J., who has literally practiced what she preaches in presenting her parent-education program. Her own home has been her demonstration. Despite her full home demonstration program, she has always managed her own home, a 6-acre farm, which she and her husband and two boys have resurrected from a dilapidated state. "I have always managed my own home," she said, "because I believe that has given me a sense of the practical in presenting my ideas to groups. How do I do everything? Just by planning ahead and using a little imagination and good old common sense."

All types of homemakers are found in Bergen County, including, as it does, families ranging from the high-income-level groups of Englewood and Ridgewood, through many middle-class towns, to the slum sections of South Hackensack; from the various sections devoted to truck, vegetable, fruit, and poultry farming, to the town of Teaneck, the fastest-growing community of the metropolitan New York City area.

Leader Training Brings Success

Much of the success of Bergen County's parent-education program has been attributed to the thorough training which Mrs. Berdan has given to the volunteer local leaders who, in turn, conduct classes in educating parents. As a result of these leadership-training activities, the leaders are able to carry on their community parent-education meetings themselves with the help of the home agent only in the planning and organization of the work.

The training of local leaders has been carried out by a series of monthly meetings arranged for three different groups: those following the radio program planned by the State specialist in parent-education with its well-organized discussion outlines, questions, and bibliographies; those following the outlines given in the Parent-Teacher Magazine as well as their national radio program; and those groups making up their own programs according to their leaders' best judgment of the group needs.

Many of the leaders have been active for some years, and the group is occasionally supplemented by new leaders from other communities. The leaders meet on the first Tuesday of each month for a 2-hour session. Attendance has averaged from 22 to 26 leaders. A planning committee from the group, together with the home agent and State specialist in parent education, made up the program for the year's work.

The first hour of each session is devoted to the reports of the leaders' activities. This has been especially worth while, as one of the chief difficulties of making complete reports of county activities has been the lack of regular reports from the discussion groups themselves. In furtherance of this plan, the leaders, with the help of the home agent, evolved a report card which is to be sent to the agent following each meeting conducted by the leaders.

Training Through Discussion

Then follows a discussion of the problems of leadership encountered by the members of the group. Often a statement or question by one leader brings to light some interesting ways in which this very same problem has been met by some of the others. Leaders have assured the home agent over and over again that this exchange of experiences as to leadership difficulties has given them not only information but confidence in their own experience and methods.

Next comes a discussion of leadership, techniques, new subject matter material sent out by the State specialist, and a review of some of the previous discussion helps and outlines. Home Agent Berdan believes that frequent reviews and repetitions are definitely helpful in maintaining leadership standards.

In leading these training meetings, Mrs. Berdan endeavors to make each one a real demonstration of good leadership so that these patterns may become well fixed, no matter what type of material may be used—questions, book or chapter reviews, bulletins, or discussion outlines.

The second half of the 2-hour period is then given over to acquiring a better knowledge of available sources of help in solving the individual problems of group members that maybe more or less general, and of information concerning less-known educational and social-service agencies.

A careful record is kept of all meetings held by local leaders. Mrs. Berdan endeavors to visit each group at least once during its series of meetings.

"Our volunteer leaders have done an outstanding piece of work, not only in their regular and faithful leadership of their own community groups, but three of them have branched out into neighboring or district activities which have been singularly successful," said Mrs. Berdan. "Each of them has furnished ample evidence of a splendid development into wider abilities, both as leaders and organizers.

"One leader had community study groups in four different communities, with which she met weekly for a period of at least 6

weeks. She finished her year's activity by getting together all the members of her various study groups for a district meeting.

"Another leader planned, trained, and carried out a very fine series of panel discussion meetings in three different communities. These meetings were attended by men and women members of the local board of education, local professional folk of all kinds, and parents and teachers. The meetings were held in three different communities for the purpose of popularizing and interesting more people in community study and discussion groups, and definitely resulted in increased group attendance in these three towns.

"Still another leader wrote a number of playlets depicting the wrong and right ways of handling certain behavior problems, trained the performers, and presented the playlets at various larger community meetings with the same purpose in mind—that of interesting more people in participating in community study groups."

In addition to leader-training meetings, Mrs. Berdan gives parent-education lectures to various parent-teacher, civic, and church groups.

A most successful night series of meetings was held with a group at New Milford, where a parent-teacher association had been unsuccessful in organizing study groups.

Fathers' Group Organized

From these meetings developed the first fathers' study group in the county. It seems that the young mothers were not getting the cooperation of the fathers on family problems, so they conceived the idea that these fathers should discuss the topics in a group by themselves. Mrs. Berdan made arrangements for the leadership of this men's group by a qualified and trained leader—the supervising principal of the Dumont schools, who was not only a trained psychiatrist but a trained leader of discussion groups. However, on the night of the first meeting, the scheduled leader became ill; so Mrs. Berdan was called into service to lead the discussion.

"Soon the 14 men assembled realized that I was not there to lay down the law but simply to lead them in a discussion which eventually waxed fast and furious and with no inhibitions because of its feminine leadership," said Mrs. Berdan.

The following week, the designated leader had recovered; and this group met for the planned series of six meetings during the early spring, and then adjourned to begin its activities again in the late fall.

The mothers report that the cooperation of fathers in handling joint family problems has increased since the men have taken an active part in these parent-discussion groups.

How My House Became a Home

Negro homemakers in Fulton and Hickman Counties, Ky., have been working on home improvement for 2 years under the leadership of Hattie R. Bethea, Negro home demonstration agent. When the women began to make changes, the men caught the idea and began to push the work, too. As a result, 1 new house has been built, 8 remodeled, 35 repaired, 18 painted; 16 sanitary toilets have been built; electricity has been installed in 12 homes; and new furniture has been bought. Only 3 percent of Fulton County Negroes and 16 percent of those in Hickman County are rural home owners, so that the achievements indicate effective cooperation from the landlord. One rural home owner, Lewis Upshaw, tells how he and his wife became interested and what they did in the following account of a remodeled home.

■ "My wife and I own our little home about 3 miles west of Hickman on a well-traveled highway. Our house was in very bad condition. It had never been weatherboarded and was leaning to one side. It had never been painted inside or outside; there were few or no conveniences; and the roof leaked.

"I knew the house needed to be improved; I was very conscious of the fact. A few years ago, I attempted to make some improvements; but it seemed hopeless, and I became discouraged. Then, in the winter of 1938, the home demonstration agent asked us about making some improvements. She said that as there were only two Negro landowners in that section of the bottom she thought both of them should improve their homes so that others would have a desire to raise their standard of living.

"A word of encouragement was what I needed, because it was always my desire to have a nice home. My wife and mother also wanted a nice home for their personal pleasure and so that they might have a place where their friends could visit them.

"Much of the work on the house I did myself; but I had to hire help in weatherboarding and in painting the outside of the house, putting in new windows, changing the roof, building the bathroom, papering the hall, and raising and leveling the house. This labor cost me \$108.50. The expense of all improvements made, including labor, material, furniture, and the new lawn and shrubbery, was \$913. At first this seemed a lot of money just to be spent for repairs; but, after having enjoyed the conveniences made by the changes and seeing the effect it has on my family and the community, I now regret that I didn't make the improvements years ago.

"A white, red, and green color scheme has been worked out for the exterior. The in-

terior is brown, orange, sand green, and cream. The whole house was raised and leveled; then it was weatherboarded and a new roof put on. A front porch, a back porch, and a bathroom were built on. New windows were put in, and the whole house was screened and painted. The yard was land-



"Our home adds to the beauty of the community. Visitors and friends are proud of it."

scaped, and many other improvements were made.

"Our home now adds to the beauty of the community. More than 40 visitors, white and colored, have visited the house; and many have passed, looking at it so intently that their cars would leave the road. Visitors and friends seem to feel proud of me and have more respect for the family. They think of me in a different way.

"We are very proud of our home and hope each year to make needed repairs, keeping it a comfortable, convenient, and cheerful home to live in."

Ohio Circuit Riders—New Style

■ Circuit riding is not out of style, although now, according to D. C. Foster, agricultural agent, Paulding County, Ohio, the riders are more likely to be carrying milk-testing kits than a saddlebag filled with lawbooks, which was the mark of the legal profession in early days.

Halbert Pennell, Latty, Ohio, now testing for the dairy-herd improvement association in Defiance, Henry, and Paulding Counties, has been making the circuits for 10 years and has seen the number of associations in northwestern Ohio increase from 1 in 1930 to 6 at the present time. The number of cows on test in that area now is 1,900, as compared to 300 when Mr. Pennell began testing.

One function of the modern circuit rider is to carry information from one member of the association to others. John Westrick, Defiance, Ohio, has ensiled alfalfa twice, and the feeding records taken by the association tester proved the value of the practice; so the word is carried to the other members, and some of them have put alfalfa in the silo instead of in the haymow.

Records from the Westrick farm show that alfalfa ensilage last summer cost less than 80 cents a ton for materials. The hay itself could have been sold for \$3 an acre to a dehydrating plant, and the blackstrap mo-

lasses used as a preservative cost \$17. Seven acres of hay went into the silo, so the total cost of material was \$38.

Mr. Westrick found that alfalfa silage made in 1938 maintained milk production the past summer although pastures got low. The cows liked the supplemental feed, and its low cost was a big factor in that period when milk prices were not too good.

Other items that the rider carries around the circuit each month are the cost of milk production per hundredweight of milk and the return made by the cows for each dollar's worth of feed. In comparing feed costs last month, Mr. Westrick found that his feed costs were 57 cents per hundredweight, as compared to feed costs of 45 cents per hundredweight on the Floyd Young farm.

Mr. Young was feeding all home-grown grains and was not feeding grain as heavily as his fellow association member. The importance of checking feed costs carefully is proved by the difference in price of protein furnished by different concentrates. The association tester found that a unit of protein from ground soybeans cost 3.9 cents; from soybean oil meal, 5 cents; from cottonseed oil meal, 5.9 cents; and from linseed meal, 8.1 cents in Paulding, Ohio, on the same day in October.

Seasoned With Statistics

MARY L. COLLINGS, Home Management Specialist, Louisiana

■ Home demonstration agents in Louisiana have been undertaking a new line of endeavor recently. Give them a meal or a garden to plan, a dress to make, or some canning to do, and they are on old, familiar ground; but in the last few years they have been given the assignment of demonstrating how economic planning might help the farm family to make its small income go further. Home agents gradually have become "economic conscious" through hearing outlook talks at State meetings and through their own club meetings at which they relayed material on economic trends and current problems to farm women.

Yet, having little or no background in economics, many home agents felt handicapped in handling discussions of economic problems. Their feeling of insecurity in interpreting economic data has been the result, no doubt, of their failure to understand economic terms or to think in "economic language"; and the situation has not been materially improved by the parrot-like repetition of information passed out from the State office. The home agent who feels this insecurity in a discussion on economics may understand very well the problems of the farm families in her parish, yet her discussions of statistical studies and their significance may leave much to be desired.

The Louisiana extension staff met this situation with an economic conference for home demonstration agents. The objectives of this conference were: To help the agents acquire an "economic vocabulary"; to connect the farm home problems with the farm problems of which they are a part; to create an understanding of the consumer's place in the economic system; to assist the agents in understanding the significance of statistical data on farm family living; to suggest the idea of a spending plan or budget for the purchase of electrical equipment; and to further home production of house furnishings which can add to the comfort of the farm family and to the income of the cotton farmer.

Conference Gets Under Way

The week of September 11 to 16 was chosen for the conference, and the place was the State's best 4-H Club camp site. The selection of the place, undoubtedly, had much to do with the success of the conference. Agents brought slacks and other camp regalia and optimistically settled themselves for a good time, 20 to a cabin in true camp style.

On Monday morning the conference got un-

der way. From that time on, economics was in the air, with session upon session straight through the week. Classes started at 7:30 each morning, were 1 hour long, and continued until 12 o'clock. From 2 to 4 p. m., classes assembled again; and the agents divided into two groups for "handicraft" or "activity" periods. For an hour and a half each night another session was held.

Despite all this concentrated work, the conference moved along well because, no doubt, of the need for the information given, the sincerity and clarity of the speakers, and the conviction on the part of the agents that family financial planning is an important step in the solution of farm-home problems.

At the final hour's session each morning, various speakers representing major farm groups discussed their interests. The Sugar-cane League and the Rice Growers' Cooperative were represented by officials who described the situations facing their groups. The administrative officer in charge of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration program in Louisiana spoke of the situation facing cotton families—1 million more people and less purchasing power now than cotton families had in 1910-14.

How to Use Economics

The last session was a family affair, with each of the State homemaking specialists outlining the possible uses of economic materials in the various projects under her jurisdiction. Louisiana is one of those States in which economic education as an extension project has been primarily centered on outlook discussions conducted in home demonstration clubs during December each year, one exception being the intensive work with a very limited number of home account demonstrators. During the past year a 15-minute period at each club meeting was devoted to a discussion of one general question of economic significance, such as tariffs, freight rates, provisions of the AAA program, the farm credit situation, and the cropping and renting systems of the South. Gradually, the thought has developed that the best use of statistical data relative to farm-family living may not be a concentrated dose spiced with Christmas cheer nor a tonic administered at 15-minute intervals. Family economic information has come to be thought of as a seasoning to be blended with each project as a definite ingredient of the recipe for better farm-family living in Louisiana.

What have been the results of the conference? It is still too early to see many results; and yet, if a changed attitude on the

part of the agents is any indication, we have already had some results. The number of agents reporting activities in the field of economic education in their 1939 reports showed a 54 percent increase.

Five agents wrote immediately for the skit on the family council given at the conference as a suggested method for reaching large groups of people. One agent has mentioned three times that her clubwomen found this skit interesting and were busily preparing to put it on in several communities in the parish.

Parish Maps Show Situation

The home demonstration agent in Tangipahoa Parish writes:

"During the month of December, 14 outlook meetings were held with home demonstration clubs. At these meetings, maps of the parish showing the deficiency of farm products and livestock were shown. From these charts each member worked out an individual sheet for the home production and consumption of products. Outlook meetings are teaching rural families to look ahead in their program planning."

One new agent has impressed upon her clubs the value of home accounts to the extent that one club has appointed a leader to obtain record books for all club members and to teach them how to keep accounts.

One agent invited the State home demonstration agent to introduce family financial planning to her parish at the achievement program held in the form of a joint husband-and-wife affair.

One agent who was invited to speak to a large group of home economics women made a chart showing the cost of an adequate diet, if purchased, in relation to the home-produced equivalent and, using figures presented at the conference, showed how far up the economic scale a family would have to be to afford the adequate diet if all the food had to be bought.

Another agent had two leaders write a short skit on the values of home-produced food in the diet and used this kit as an introduction to the nutrition demonstrations going in her parish last year. A sixth agent, who follows the practice of having clubs hold each month a second meeting conducted by leaders, is interesting her leaders in studying consumer-education problems at this extra club meeting.

This is a good start, and who knows but that family financial planning will not only be an ingredient of the extension home-management recipe but will become the *pièce de résistance* of the meal!

■ The Garrard County, Ky., 4-H Club, for the tenth consecutive year, has won top honors at the annual fat-cattle show at the Bourbon stockyards in Louisville, Ky.

Repay in Kind

Ninety-eight Laurel County (Ky.) 4-H Club boys each gave 11 ears of prize corn to the National Bank of London Ky., in payment for seed received last spring. The 11 ears made up the exhibit of each boy at the county corn show. Each club member had received from the bank sufficient Johnson County White or Reid's Yellow Dent seed to plant an acre.

Planted for the most part on limed and phosphated land, the corn yielded up to 65 bushels to the acre, with an average of more than 50 bushels per acre for the entire 98 acres, compared to an average of probably 35 bushels for the county, according to estimates of P. G. Grimwood, county agricultural agent.

Feed Reserves

Realizing that drought years will come again, and that feed reserves are essential in building up a sound agricultural program, many farmers in Daniels County, Mont., now have enough feed stacked up to carry them through for several years, reports Earl W. Bjork, county extension agent.

Through its forage-crop and feed-reserve project, the extension service in the county has emphasized the value of such crops as rye, oats, corn, millet, sweetclover, and crested wheatgrass; and, as a result, thousands of acres of these crops have been planted in the county. This year alone, between 15,000 and 20,000 acres were planted to these crops.

During the last 2 or 3 years, the planting of crested wheatgrass has been stressed, with the result that more than 11,000 acres were planted to this hardy forage crop this fall.

Another aid to the feed-reserve project in Daniels County has been the stands of volunteer sweetclover which have come up on thousands of acres, and which have made it unnecessary for many farmers to plant additional acres to this crop.

Poultry Festival

Nearly 300 4-H Club members of Lawrence County, Tenn., held a poultry festival show and sale last fall to finish off the season's work which began with 15,000 baby chicks in the spring.

Early in the year Lawrenceburg businessmen agreed to lend financial assistance to 300 boys and girls in raising poultry. On March 23 and April 4 each of 298 boys and girls received 50 day-old chicks valued at \$4 and baby-chick feed valued at \$1.50, making a total loan of \$5.50. Barred Rock, White Rock, White Wyandotte, and New Hampshire Red breeds were adopted.

The club members signed statements agreeing to bring in 10 cockerels each when they were 25 weeks old to be sold at public auction to pay off their loans. The poultry festival was climaxed in Lawrenceburg September 23, when 289 boys and girls exhibited

ONE WAY TO DO IT! Methods tried and found good

10 cockerels each and sold them. They also exhibited several hundred pullets and other cockerels from their young flocks.

The cockerels weighed a total of 10,700 pounds and sold for 14 cents a pound. The amount received paid the account for each club member, and there was a balance of \$85 to be distributed as prizes. Additional prize funds were made available by businessmen sponsoring the event. Each club member now has a nice flock of pullets which began laying early in September, states Minnie Ruth Stephens, home demonstration agent, who with Otto Hunerwadel, county agricultural agent, assisted with the project.

Forty-one Miles for Ten Minutes

Although the nearest broadcasting station is located 41 miles away, across the State line, County Agent R. J. Martin of McDonald County, Mo., considers 10 minutes on the air 1 day a week well worth the travel involved and the time required for the preparation and delivery of the broadcast. After 5 months in which he has not missed a week, he states that the broadcasts increase attendance at meetings, bring in many calls for additional information, and win many new friends for extension work. McDonald County is situated in the Ozark Mountains in the extreme southwest corner of Missouri. Although the county is chiefly rural, with the largest town having a population of only 900, the latest radio survey shows a total of 2,306 radio sets in the county. The extension agent's broadcasts are made each Tuesday noon from Station KUOA at Siloam Springs, Ark.

4-H Leadership Training

A survey made of 674 young men and women representing 62 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, resulted in getting a report from 424 individuals who had participated in leadership-training schools during the past 13 years.

Of this group, 51 percent had averaged between 2 and 3 years of service as leaders in

4-H Club work; 41 percent have had or now have an active part in some other phase of the agricultural and home economics extension work in their home county, aside from 4-H Club work; 14 are on a county executive committee for extension work; 48 percent have served as community leaders in fields other than extension education; 90 were active in church leadership; 93 were active in grange work; and 22 were active on school boards, in lodges, local clubs, parent-teacher associations, and volunteer fire companies.

There is overlapping in some of these fields of leadership. An individual check showed that 71 percent, or 301, have had a part in some community leadership activity.

Appeals to the Eye and Ear

Combining the appeal of natural-color photographs of local people with songs by a chorus of local 4-H Club members, County Agent R. W. McBurney of Mitchell County, Kans., developed a highly effective program for a series of community meetings held in November and December.

Agent McBurney started his venture into the use of color film less than a year ago, but already he has become an ardent enthusiast and a capable photographer. It was, therefore, natural for him to think of pictures first when faced with the problem of stimulating interest in the county 4-H Club chorus which he was attempting to organize. He tried out the idea of combining pictures and song at a meeting of 4-H Club leaders, officers, and parents, where it received an enthusiastic reception. As a result, he decided to use the chorus with pictures at each township farm bureau election meeting, with the possibility of using a somewhat similar feature at the county farm bureau annual meeting if the idea has not been overworked by that time.

Two songs were used—Plowing and Dreaming; both of which are included in the National 4-H Club songbook. As the chorus sings each song, Mr. McBurney throws on the screen natural-color pictures relating to the different lines of the song. The pictures are changed about every two lines. Whenever possible, pictures of people in the community in which the meeting is being held are used. It is necessary, therefore, to revise the slide set for each meeting.

A sample of the type of pictures used is the color shot of a 4-H Club girl beside a lily pool with two tall Austrian pines in the background, which is flashed on the screen with the opening lines of the Dreaming song:

"My home must have a high tree
Above its open gate, * * *

Mr. McBurney believes that this idea has boosted attendance at his township meetings by giving the 4-H Clubs a definite part in those meetings and that it is giving those not in 4-H groups an attractive picture of club work.

Markets Help Balance the Budget

CORNELIA C. MORRIS, Home Marketing Specialist, North Carolina

■ Farm women's markets in North Carolina have become a flourishing rural profit-sharing industry. Not only have these markets helped to solve the farm homemakers' money problems, but they also have provided a respite from home cares. Working together with their home demonstration agents in planning and organizing the curb markets, the farm women operate the markets themselves and are having a good time doing it. Despite the hard work and long hours of preparation required to get ready for market, many of the women look forward to curb-market days as their holidays.

Some 2,000 farm women operating 44 curb markets throughout the State sold approximately \$309,000 worth of farm products in 1939—almost double the amount sold in curb markets 6 years ago. It is estimated that an equal amount of farm produce was sold by farm women individually and in groups through other market channels. In all the organized counties in North Carolina, whether there are curb markets or not, farm women engage in some type of marketing. They sell to individuals, merchants, hotels, and institutions by express, parcel post, truck service, and personal delivery.

In 1939, nearly \$11,000 was taken in by 28 farm women selling in the Orange County Curb Market organized just 2 years ago. More than \$34,000 worth of foodstuffs were sold by 137 Durham County women, and 27 farm women in Cumberland County sold produce amounting to \$14,318.

Market \$37,000 Worth of Produce

The Rocky Mount Home Demonstration Club Market, organized in 1923 for the benefit of the farm women of Nash and Edgecombe counties, continues to hold first place in the State with respect to sales. More than \$42,000 worth of products were sold from this market in 1938, and last year 125 Nash County farm women marketed some \$37,000 worth of farm produce. The new market building means much to the community other than a place of sale. The women and 4-H Club members hold their flower shows, federation meetings, benefit parties, and cooking schools in it. Another curb-market organized in Edgecombe County reports that 1939 was the most successful year in its 17-year history, with sales of 25 clubwomen and 2 4-H Club girls totaling \$6,420.

Twenty-nine of the curb markets are housed in brick buildings, 12 in frame buildings, 1 in a galvanized metal building, and 2 operate under sheds. On 17 of the buildings

a small rental fee is paid; 18 buildings are county-owned; and 5 are city-owned. Eleven of the buildings were especially constructed for markets; and 7 markets are housed in county agricultural buildings, with special facilities provided for their operation.

Twenty-five markets operate twice weekly (usually Wednesday and Saturday mornings), and the remainder open only on Saturdays. The average number of women selling on each market is 24.

All the markets have market committees to direct the work and enforce regulations. Health examinations and blood tests are required by law of all producers selling in the curb markets, and certificates must be posted in conspicuous places. The majority of the markets require uniforms or smocks to be worn by the sellers. Display tables must be clean, attractive, and uniform. Prices must be posted in such a manner that customers may see and read them easily. The products must be standard at all times. Only rural women are permitted to sell on the curb markets, and the products sold must be produced on the farm. In some markets, arrangements can be made for the marketing of the products of the regular sellers who are unable to get to the market in person.

A Catawba County farm woman, giving a radio talk on what the Hickory Curb Market had meant to the market women, said: "Eight years ago when the market was established, about 10 women worked there regularly. The number is 13 now; but these women sell for 8 others who cannot come, making a total of 21 families having the advantage of an outlet for their surplus produce. They sell flowers, meats, poultry, eggs, butter, cottage cheese, breads, cakes, pies and puddings, all varieties of fresh and dried vegetables, fruits and berries, canned fruits and vegetables, preserves, jams, jellies, and marmalades."

In the mountain and coastal regions of the State, farm women have an opportunity to increase their income by providing lodging, meals, food specialties, and handicraft articles to tourists.

Craft Articles Popular

Weaving, rug making, and basketry are traditional crafts in North Carolina which have been carried on for generations by women in the mountain section of the State. Cotton and wool are plentiful for weaving, and there is an ample supply of basketry material available. These women use natural dyes, making them from nut hulls, broom-

sedge, cotton blossoms, onionskins, goldenrod, lichens, madder root, wild coreopsis, beet root, and many other roots, herbs, and flowers. Corn shucks, broomcorn, honeysuckle, and pine needles are other native handicraft materials used throughout the State. The demand for good handicraft articles is increasing; and many articles are sold through gift shops, department stores, and roadside stands. Names and addresses of craft makers are kept on file in the office of the marketing specialist for the convenience of those desiring to learn of sources of supply. There are no central markets devoted to the selling of handicraft articles. A few of the curb markets are providing booths for crafts, and there is one roadside craft market.

Although the markets are established primarily for financial gain, it is the contact with other women, both buyers and sellers, which contributes most to the women's enthusiasm for the markets. Leadership and business ability have been developed in the markets, too. As the farm women stand behind counters and deal with the public, they learn that their products, to be salable, must meet public demand. Fruits and vegetables, poultry, and dairy products must be graded and arranged to show to the best advantage. Baked products must be of good texture and flavor, and health and sanitary regulations must be observed. There is a noticeable improvement in the quality of all products offered for sale on the curb markets.

A Well-Organized Market

An excellent example of a curb market is to be found in Cumberland County. The market is managed by a committee of four members. Two sellers share a table and pay a rental of \$1 each per month. All sellers are required to wear white. A secretary is employed at \$1 per market morning to make change, weigh the chickens, and give general supervision to the running of the market. A 4-H Club boy is paid 50 cents on Saturday mornings to clean up after the market closes and to assist the purchasers with their packages. The market sanitary regulations are hung where all can plainly see them. To comply with these regulations, sellers must have health certificates; all members of their families must have been vaccinated against typhoid fever within the past 3 years; and their homes must be screened, equipped with approved toilet facilities, and provided with an approved water supply.

Nearly all the market sellers report that

they used the money derived from their sales to help defray the regular family expenses. Improvements and conveniences for the home and college educations for the children are reported as direct results of the income from the markets. Interesting items mentioned by different sellers were: Bought new furniture; screened porch and painted inside of home; started a bank account for building; finished paying for my water system; improved the kitchen to make it more convenient; bought a cow; wired home and bought an electric refrigerator; painted home; kept ice during summer; paid telephone rent; had a week's vacation at beach; and paid cotton and tobacco hands.

One of the Cumberland County women reported that her sales on the market, from the time it began in October 1931 to the end of November 1938, had amounted to \$9,453.16. The entire family has cooperated in the marketing project, which has made possible the building of a new home.

A Community Library

The Happy Workers' Home Demonstration Club in Dewey County, Okla., decided to have a community library. Having obtained the cooperation of other organizations toward paying the rent of a building at \$60 a year, the Happy Workers decided that they could pay a librarian at \$8 a month, so they started in to clean, paper, and paint the building. The women made the curtains and in other ways made the building an attractive library. Men of the community built the bookshelves from lumber, some of which was bought and some donated. The total expense was \$13.95.

The library has 190 books from the State library at Oklahoma City and 279 books given by friends of the library. One member from each of the cooperating organizations and two from the Happy Workers, together with the librarian, form the library council which meets once a month. The council appointed a book committee to check all books and magazines coming into the library. From 50 to 60 books are now being checked out each week.

4-H Show

Members of Judith Basin County, Mont., 4-H Clubs and the Future Farmers of America Chapter recently exhibited 70 head of livestock in the county's first annual junior fat-stock show, according to H. L. Dusenberry, county extension agent. The show was held just before the animals were shipped to the regional junior fat-stock show at Billings. In addition to exhibiting their stock, the junior feeders participated in demonstrations, including dehorning, branding gate and squeeze, calf fitting, and sheep fitting. A showmanship contest culminated the event.



The new executive committee, reading from left to right, D. Z. McCormick, J. Ed Parker, C. C. Keller, and E. V. Ryall.

County Agents Meet

The National Association of County Agricultural Agents, meeting in Chicago on December 5, 6, and 7, elected J. Ed Parker, Lexington, Ky., as president; and E. V. Ryall, Kenosha, Wis., as vice president. C. C. Keller, Springfield, Mo., was reelected as secretary-treasurer. These three agents with the retiring president, D. Z. McCormick, make up the executive committee for the coming year.

The association honored 56 of its members for "long and efficient service in the agricultural industry" by presenting them with distinguished-service certificates at the annual banquet of the association. The agents so honored are: Arkansas, J. M. Thomason; Colorado, James E. Morrison; Connecticut, R. P. Atherton; Idaho, Chase Kearn; Indiana, John F. Hull, Eugene C. Bird, and Orin W. Mansfield; Iowa, D. H. Zentmire, Donald Griswold, and Arthur J. Secor; Kansas, R. L. Stover, Harvey J. Stewart, and D. Z. McCormick; Kentucky, C. A. Wicklund, J. O. Horning, J. E. McClure, C. B. Elston, Robert F. Spence, and S. W. Anderson; Massachusetts, Joseph H. Putnam; Michigan, Gordon R. Schlubatis and Harold J. Foster; Minnesota, Franklin L. Liebenstein, August Neubauer, C. M. Kelehan, Arthur H. Frick, and Leslie E. McMillan; Missouri, J. U. Morris and C. C. Keller; Nebraska, M. L. Gould, K. C. Fouts, W. R. Wicks, and A. H. DeLong; New Hampshire, Howard Wells; New York, Dan D. Ward, R. F. Pollard, and Clarence M. Slack; Oklahoma, J. B. Hill, A. T. Burge, Word Cromwell, and James Lawrence; Rhode Island, S. D. Hollis; South Dakota, Benjamin H. Schaub, Floyd F. Collins, and L. V. Ausman; Tennessee, R. E. Ellis; Texas, C. B. Martin, J. K. Parr, Jack Forgason, D. F. Eaton, D. A. Adam, D. D. Clinton, F. O. Montague, J. V. Bush, and J. C. Yeary; Wyoming, F. A. Chisholm.

One of the high points of the 3-day conference was the discussion of county agent relationships from the standpoint of the Farm Security Administration, by W. W. Alexander; the Soil Conservation Service, by H. H. Bennett; the Farm Credit Administration, by Roy M. Green; and the Extension Service by C. E. Brehm, director of extension in Tennessee. This was followed by a general discussion of relationships by members of the association.

All Cattle Tested for Tuberculosis

Every herd of cattle in the United States has now been tested for tuberculosis at least once, according to an announcement by the Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture. The last herd to receive its initial test was in Stanislaus County, Calif. Of 123 head of cattle in this herd, 95 proved to be free of the disease. Although every herd in California and in the United States has now been tested, 6 California counties have not yet qualified for official designation as modified accredited areas. However, the work is proceeding rapidly. Since July 1, 1939, a total of 472,599 cattle in California have been tested, of which 8,101 were classed as diseased.

During the progress of the Nation-wide campaign, more than 220 million tuberculin tests have been applied. This number, greatly exceeding the number of cattle in the United States at any one time, represents numerous retests and, of course, changes in the herds resulting from births, deaths, and sales of animals for various purposes.

The tuberculosis-eradication campaign in the United States has been watched with interest by veterinary and livestock officials in the principal countries of the world, as it is the largest undertaking of its kind in the annals of agriculture and the veterinary profession.

Surplus Wheat

More extensive demonstrations and experiments with wheat as a livestock feed than were ever carried out in Oregon before have been made possible through a cooperative arrangement by which the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation has turned over to the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station 350 tons of surplus wheat to be used for this purpose.

New Outlook Film Strips Ready

The following series of outlook film strips for 1940, prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, are now available for purchase in both the single- and double-frame size: series 577. *Potato Outlook Charts*; series 578. *Demand Outlook Charts*; series 579. *Hog Outlook Charts*; series 580. *Sheep and Lambs Outlook Charts*; series 581. *Poultry and Egg Outlook Charts*; series 582. *Beef Cattle Outlook Charts*; series 583. *Dairy Outlook Charts*.

Single-frame size cost 50 cents each, whereas the double-frame size are priced at \$1 each. Orders should be forwarded direct to Photo Lab, Inc., 3825 Georgia Avenue NW., Washington, D. C. When ordering outlook film strips, specify whether single- or double-frame size is desired. As the series are self-explanatory, they are not accompanied by supplementary lecture notes.

Authorized To Use the 4-H Emblem

■ Since the passage of the act to prohibit the unauthorized use of the name or insignia of the 4-H Clubs, the following persons and organizations have been granted authority by the Secretary of Agriculture to use the 4-H Club name and emblem in the manner indicated.

Welles Publishing Co., Wellesley, Mass., publishers of 4-H Horizons. Granted authority to use the 4-H Club name and emblem on the magazine and in correspondence in connection therewith.

National Committee on Boys' and Girls' Club Work, Chicago, Ill. Granted authority for the continued use of the 4-H Club name and emblem in their activities, such as, sponsoring and holding a national club congress; arranging with corporations and individuals for donations of prizes and awards on a national basis for excellence in various 4-H Club activities; publishing a bimonthly leaflet, National 4-H Club News; maintaining a supply of 4-H Club pins, arm bands, and pennants, with the understanding that profit from sales will be used for the promotion of 4-H Club work.

The U. O. Colson Co., Paris, Ill., publishers of a 4-H Club calendar, the text of which was submitted to the Department of Agriculture for approval. Authority granted to use the 4-H Club name and emblem on the calendar and in connection with their advertising in the sale thereof. The company has agreed in writing that the calendar will not be sold to any line of business which would be objectionable to 4-H Club members or their parents, such as manufacturers of and dealers in liquor and tobacco.

The Buzza Co., Craftacres, Minneapolis, Minn. Authority granted to use the 4-H Club name and emblem on a motto or greeting card. Design and text were submitted and approved.

The Thos. D. Murphy Co., Red Oak, Iowa. This company issues a 4-H Club calendar, the text of which was submitted and approved. Authority granted to use the 4-H Club name and emblem on the calendar and in connection with advertising in the sale thereof. The company has also agreed that the calendar will not be sold to any line of business which would be objectionable to 4-H Club members or their parents.

The Self-Locking Carton Co., 589 East Illinois Street, Chicago, Ill., manufacturers of egg cartons. Granted authority to use the 4-H Club name and emblem on egg cartons for sale to 4-H Club members.

Arthur B. Woodard, Box 450, Geneva, N. Y. Granted authority to use the 4-H Club name and emblem on a monthly magazine, 4-H Home, which contains material for each county in the State of New York. The material used is prepared by the 4-H Club or other extension agents.

Consolidated Book Publishers, Inc., 537 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill. Given authority to use the 4-H Club name and emblem in a book which they are now preparing for publication, entitled "The Big Book of the 4-H." This book will contain a full novel on 4-H Club work by Mrs. Ella Williams Porter, of Iowa, several short fiction stories on 4-H Club work, and a number of stories drawn from actual experiences and successes of 4-H Club members.

Working Out the Problem

■ Greeley County, Kans., has had a difficult time for the past 6 or 7 years, as have all western Kansas counties. But, remarks H. C. Baird, district agent, they have been blessed with some outstanding leadership and a generous supply of cooperative spirit that has been clicking for several years.

In the early spring of 1936, county farm leaders were starting from "scratch" when they worked out a 5-year program for agriculture in Greeley County. At that time the county was devoid of livestock, suffering from successive crop failures, and most of the land in the county was subject to wind erosion.

In order to have a more stable income, farm leaders agreed that a change from cash farming to diversified farming would be necessary; and they further agreed that

if the change from cash farming to diversified farming was made, the production of livestock was essential to the success of such a change.

As it is necessary to raise feed before livestock can be successfully produced, that problem received attention first. Here are some of the results obtained:

The land in cover crop increased from 1,000 acres in 1936 to 50,000 acres in 1938, and decreased to 35,000 acres in 1939, reflecting the improvements in soil conditions as former blowing lands "graduated" from the cover-crop stage. Strip cropping increased from 30,000 acres in 1936 to 150,000 acres in 1937. In 1936 there were 15,000 acres in summer-fallow. This increased to 50,000 acres in 1937, 70,000 in 1938, and 75,000 in 1939. Contour farming increased from 6,000 acres in 1936 to 30,000 acres in 1939. These practices are aimed at

the problems of moisture conservation, prevention of wind erosion, and feed for livestock.

L. J. Brewer, county agent, says: "That the summarization of the 5-year program will show favorable results is indicated by the bank deposits of the First National Bank of Tribune. On June 30, 1935, the deposits amounted to \$147,000. They have increased every year to more than \$200,000 on June 30, 1939."

A crowd of 150 county AAA committeemen and other interested farmers from 26 western Kansas counties spent November 13 touring Greeley County to view the accomplishments this county has made in controlling wind erosion through the use of strip cropping and cover cropping. N. E. Dodd, Washington, D. C. director of the AAA's western division, told the group that the Greeley County strip-cropping program was one of the most outstanding examples of soil conservation in the Nation.

Since 1936, the acreage of Greeley County land subject to serious wind erosion has been reduced from 270,000 acres to approximately 5,000 acres, in spite of subnormal rainfall. Farmers of the county voted to require strip cropping and cover cropping on all farms receiving AAA payments. This requirement has been enforced by the farmer-elected county committee.

Increased Production

Fifty-five of Pennsylvania's 67 counties have dairy-herd improvement associations, reports I. O. Sidelmann, dairy extension specialist at the Pennsylvania State College. Bradford County leads with 6 associations, followed by Susquehanna and Tioga Counties with 5 each.

The goal of each association is an average annual production of 300 pounds of butterfat per cow. This goal has been reached by 88 of the 99 associations in the State. Twenty-two associations have passed the 350-pound average.

The first dairy-herd improvement association in Pennsylvania was organized in Chester County in 1910. The average butterfat production of cows owned by association members that year was 235 pounds. Ten years later the average had climbed to 266 pounds. Their last annual average, that for 1938, stood at 329 pounds.

Anniversary Publication

A Quarter-Century of Progress in Agriculture in Ventura County, written by the farm adviser staff in Ventura County, Calif., celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary of extension work in the county. It is a complete and detailed history of agriculture in the county, with the contributions which the Extension Service has made to its development.

Do You Know . . .

J. G. McCall

County Agent in Jackson and Perry Counties, Ill., Who Coordinates Rural Programs in His County Via the Soils Route

■ "I'll bet that soil sample was taken out of a garden because it shows plenty of phosphorus. See how blue the test is. Look at those others, though. Twelve of the farmer's sixteen samples show need of a great deal of phosphorus—1,000 pounds or more an acre of rock phosphate if alfalfa is to be grown."

County Agent J. G. McCall was talking from his desk in Jackson County, Ill., while studying intently 16 of the hundreds of soil samples brought into his office each year.

Although Mr. McCall was carrying out one of his duties in the regular extension program which has been going on for many years, he admitted that his greatest accomplishment in Jackson and Perry Counties has been "along the lines of soil conservation and erosion control and in the coordination of the various programs operating in the county to aid in soil improvement."

Mr. McCall has been teaching farmers in Jackson County to test soils during the 9 years he has been agent in Jackson County. However, the work of coordinating the numerous programs in soil improvement has come into the picture only in the past few years, he said.

Once a farmer in southeastern Minnesota and in Johnson County, Ill., he was agent in Johnson County for 5 years and later in Gallatin County for 2 years before going to Jackson County.

Jackson County has had extension agents for 21 years, Mr. McCall's only predecessor being C. J. Thomas, who is now a farmer in the county. Perry County joined Jackson County in cooperative extension work in June 1937, and Mr. McCall still does extension work for both counties.

There are two AAA offices in the counties, one at Murphysboro, county seat of Jackson County, and the other at Pinckneyville, county seat of Perry County. Mr. McCall tries to be at Pinckneyville at least 1 day each week for conferences with AAA workers and to work on other extension projects.

"There was no extension program in Perry County until the AAA came along," said Mr. McCall.

"There was a CCC camp here in the county for 5 years, but it was removed during 1938. I had good cooperation from the camp workers, and they had good cooperation from the Extension Service.

"I worked closely with them and helped them to locate their cooperators throughout

the 5 years that they were operating. I believe that their success in this area was largely the result of their cooperation with the Extension Service. Many of the farmers selected were those with which the Extension Service had worked for years, sometimes 20 years or more, giving them a good start in soil improvement and erosion control."

On the other hand, Mr. McCall said he used the Soil Conservation Service project, which worked through the CCC camp, as a basis for much of his coordinated soils work. He selected the farms on which the camp had been working for his tours—farms which showed successful terracing, terrace outlets, grassed waterways, contour farming, and pasture improvement.

The two farms that are the most outstand-

ing as erosion-control demonstrations in the camp area are among those that had been Extension Service cooperators for 9 years or more before they started cooperation with the camp. During county tours, many of these farms were visited, and the details of the program carried out on the farms were written up for the local newspapers.

Mr. McCall said his best pasture-improvement demonstration, started 18 years ago, was the liming of a field and sowing it to bluegrass and sweetclover for a permanent pasture. This pasture is still used for a demonstration on tours, because it is on an exceptionally steep slope.

He sits in conference with the county supervisor of the Farm Security Administration and his assistant and helps them to select farmers to receive loans. He also helps FSA workers to supervise their clients, furnishes them bulletins and circulars, and helps to test their soils.

The county agent has an agreement with the county AAA workers whereby all AAA records are available to his office in case he needs them to help straighten out misunderstandings among farm program cooperators. He believes that the AAA has given him contact with a larger number of people than would otherwise have been possible and has speeded up extension work in the development of leadership.

Feature Idaho Products

■ Over a period of 8 years the home demonstration workers in Idaho have been featuring Idaho products in various meetings and programs.

Through the regular project work, the use of beet sugar has been carried from southern Idaho to northern Idaho, and from east to west. Women have been interested in using beet sugar during the preserving season and throughout the year as one of the Idaho foods which not only has merit as a food but contributes largely to the life of Idaho.

Other foods, such as lamb, beef, pork, poultry products, all of the dairy products, potatoes, beans, peas, apples, prunes, peaches, cherries, and all kinds of Idaho vegetables and fruits have been used in various ways in all kinds of demonstrations.

Meals for the family and meals that would be used for bridge luncheons, for buffet suppers, for Sunday night suppers, for afternoon teas, for large groups, and for a few guests have all been emphasized; and foods which have been grown in Idaho and which in turn add to the income of the State have been given definite consideration in the planning of home demonstration work.

A recent style-revue letter prepared by Vivian Minyard, State clothing specialist, has an interesting caption: Sheep to Woolen Fab-

rics for Smartly Dressed Idaho Women at all Occasions.

Through 4-H Club work, as well as through the adult groups, Idaho foods and Idaho's only fabric, wool, are being continuously and purposely used. There are exhibits at all county and district fairs to show the use of many kinds of fruit prepared with beet sugar in jelly, preserves, and regular canning. Achievement days will be featured all over the State at which various kinds of Idaho foods and wool garments will be displayed.

All year round, in some way or another, either through demonstrations, exhibits, or discussion, the possibilities and the importance of more completely using the products that Idaho produces, which are usable in the home and through food commodities, are emphasized over and over again, reports Marion M. Hepworth, State home demonstration leader.

■ The members of the finance and agricultural committees of the Niagara County, N. Y., Board of Supervisors staged a tour of the county to see for themselves the work of the Extension Service. Visits were made to typical agricultural, home demonstration, and 4-H projects.

Who's Who Among the First County Agents

■ **WALTER STEMMONS**, coming to Connecticut in October 1918, by way of Oklahoma from his native Missouri, brought with him something of the breadth and sweep of a newer and bigger landscape, which serves Connecticut well. Trained in newspaper work and with 5 years of experience as editor at Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, he quickly came to know the college and the people of Connecticut with the peculiar understanding which has made him successful as editor and writer for the Connecticut Extension Service.

■ **F. E. BALMER** entered extension work as district supervisor of county agent work in Minnesota. On July 1, 1915, he was appointed State leader of county agents, in which position he served until October 15, 1930, when he became director of extension at the State College of Washington, Pullman. Before coming to the Extension Service, he had served as director of the agricultural department of the Lewiston, Minn., consolidated rural schools and as head of the La Crosse County (Wis.) School of Agriculture and Domestic Economy. At each of these schools many extension activities were conducted, including farmers' short courses, corn shows and schools, special dairy meetings, cow-testing association work, silo construction, boys' and girls' club work, alfalfa introduction, and corn-testing campaigns.

■ **GEORGE W. JOHNSON**, district agent, Texas, was born at Tenaha, Tex., and attended Sam Houston State Normal and Southwestern Normal.

He has had 15 years general farm and livestock experience on a 120-acre farm. He entered the Extension Service on February 10, 1912, as county agricultural agent of Newton County. Later he served as county agricultural agent of Nueces County, and from 1915 to 1917 he was with the United States Forest Service. From 1917 to 1919 he served as emergency club agent in Sabine County. He then became county agricultural agent of that county, and was serving in that capacity when called to his present position as district agent.

As district agent, Mr. Johnson supervises the work of county agricultural agents in extension district 5, the northwest Texas district.

■ **GEORGE M. FRIER** has the distinction of being the oldest member in point of service on the extension staff of Purdue University, having served 30 years. He joined the staff when the Department of Agricul-

tural Extension was first organized in 1909.

Mr. Frier was appointed as assistant in agricultural extension at Purdue University July 2, 1909, and was later advanced to the rank of associate in agricultural extension in charge of short courses and exhibits, which position he now holds.

He has had much to do with the laying of the foundations of the Agricultural Extension Service in Indiana, having participated in farmers' institute work, short-course work, 4-H Club work, and educational exhibits at fairs. He assisted with the educational train- and automobile-tour work of the earlier days, which helped to pave the way for future expansion of extension work. He was connected with the first seed-testing laboratory work and with certain crops and soils demonstration work of the earlier years of extension.

For the past several years his time has been taken up almost wholly by the community short courses in agriculture and home economics and with the agricultural educational exhibit phases of extension work, both of which have had much influence on the origin and growth of later phases of extension work in Indiana.

■ **M. T. PAYNE**, district agent in Texas, was born on a farm in Hill County, Tex. In 1910 he came to the Extension Service and worked with boys' clubs in Erath, Comanche, Brown, Hamilton, and Hood Counties. In 1911 he was appointed district agent in southwest Texas where he served until 1918 when he was given the position of State agent.

In 1920 he accepted the position as director of the Extension Service in Arkansas. In 1923 he resigned to become affiliated with the Boonville and Southwestern Joint Stock Land Banks. In 1927 he returned to Texas as county agent of Denton County, and in 1930 he was appointed to the position of State boys' 4-H Club agent. In 1933 he was transferred to the position of district agent in district 7 and he served in that capacity until September 30, 1935, when he was transferred to his present position as district agent.

As district agent, Mr. Payne supervises the work of county agricultural agents in extension district 8, the east central Texas district.

County Honors Agent

About 500 people, including farm families, agricultural leaders, and others from Hennepin County, Minn., gathered on November 27, to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the starting of county extension work and founding of the Hennepin County Farm

Bureau Association, and to honor their first, present, and only county agent, Kemper A. Kirkpatrick.

"Kirk," as he is familiarly known to thousands all over the State of Minnesota, was presented with numerous floral remembrances, and a gold wrist watch. Neighboring county agent, R. M. Freeman, of St. Paul, did the honors while an enthusiastic crowd watched and cheered.

Others in the limelight for the occasion were leaders, officers, and representatives of a large number of farmers' organizations in the county. Many of these organizations were started with the assistance of the county farm bureau, and all of them expressed their appreciation for the guidance and counsel of the dean of Minnesota county agents.

"Kirk" and the Hennepin County Farm Bureau were prime movers in organizing the famous Twin City Milk Producers Association, a market gardeners' association, a co-operative seed exchange, and many other cooperative groups. Congratulatory telegrams were received from many organizations and individuals inside and outside Hennepin County, including one from Secretary Henry A. Wallace.

Honors came to 22 farm bureau members who have held memberships for 20 years or more. Gold leadership pins were awarded to adult 4-H Club leaders who have led local club groups for a continuous period of 5 or more years. In all, over 250 individuals were called forward to receive certificates and words of appreciation for leadership service rendered to their communities.

Unexpected Response

Having response to the program turn up in the "most unexpected places" has convinced County Agent R. C. Smith, Rock Island County, Ill., of the value of a 15-minute program which he is conducting each week day except Saturday in cooperation with Station WHBF, Rock Island. The period is from 6:15 to 6:30 a. m.

Mr. Smith handles the program on Thursday and Friday, using material from the State college of agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture. Monday is devoted to cooperative marketing, Tuesday to AAA work, and Wednesday to an "all around the farm" period.

"I am convinced of the value of the broadcast as a means of coordinating the various agricultural programs in the county and extending our teachings," Agent Smith said.

■ Eighty-three cents plus donations of time and materials resulted in 19 road markers being made by the Sunny Home Makers' Club, located in a thickly settled suburban district of Jackson County, Mo. The women put up signs, made of 1- by 3- by 18-inch boards, which were given two coats of aluminum paint, and marked with 2-inch black letters giving the names of the streets.

AMONG OURSELVES

■ **HARRY L. BROWN**, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for the last 3 years, has been appointed chief of the division of test demonstrations and assistant director of the department of agricultural relations of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Except for the World War period, during which he served in the Navy, Mr. Brown's life work has been in the field of agriculture. In his native Georgia he was successively county agent, field agent in marketing problems and livestock production, assistant director of agricultural extension, and director of agricultural extension. From 1933 to 1936, when he came to Washington, D. C., Mr. Brown directed agricultural adjustment administration work in Georgia, and as extension director he worked closely with the Tennessee Valley Authority and other Federal agencies affecting life in rural Georgia.

■ **GROVER B. HILL**, the new Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, is a Texas ranchman and farmer who has been associated with the work of the AAA since 1934. In 1934, he served as an alternate member of the Committee of Twenty-five, which was appointed by Chester C. Davis, at that time AAA Administrator, to work out a national cattle program. Also in 1934, Mr. Hill was regional director for New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma of the cattle buying program during the drought of that year. After service on the committee which drafted the AAA range program, Mr. Hill was named field representa-

tive of the AAA. In November 1936, he came to Washington to be in charge of the range program in the southern region.

■ **F. A. SILCOX**, Chief of the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, died on December 20. Born in Columbus, Ga., he was a graduate of the College of Charleston, South Carolina, and the School of Forestry, Yale University. He entered the Forest Service in 1905 as a forest assistant, and in 1917 he was given military leave to serve as major in the Twentieth Engineers during the World War. Leaving military service, he acted as coordinator for the Federal and State employment offices and later as director of industrial relations of the Commercial Branch of the Printing Industry of the United States and Canada. For 11 years previous to his becoming Chief of the Forest Service in 1933, Mr. Silcox was director of industrial relations for the New York Employing Printers Association, New York City.

Mr. Silcox became Chief of the Forest Service at a time when the Service was launching a vastly expanded program of conservation work, including development and supervision of work projects for hundreds of CCC camps and thousands of relief workers. Under his leadership, the Forest Service was reorganized in 1935, in line with the expanded program.

■ **WALTER Q. FITCH**, for many years an untiring extension worker in Indiana, was honored by the Alpha Lambda Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi, extension honorary fraternity, in cooperation with 11 Indiana agricultural organizations, when they presented to Purdue University a life-size portrait painting of the man whom Dean Emeritus J. H. Skinner described as having a "... high appreciation of his opportunities and his responsibilities to the university and to the farmers of Indiana."

The presentation took place at a special ceremony at Purdue University on October 4, at the time of the extension workers' annual conference, with approximately 400 persons present.

Professor Fitch, who died of a heart ailment in the fall of 1937, had been associated with many phases of extension activities throughout the Hoosier State. At the time of his death, he was the State leader of farmers' institutes, director of the annual agricultural conference week, and a contributor of ideas for State and National exhibitions.

The portrait painting was hung with paintings of other outstanding agricultural leaders in the Purdue agricultural experiment station building.

■ **DIRECTOR CECIL W. CREEL** was granted a year's leave of absence by the University of Nevada to accept the position of representative in Washington of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities. Assistant Director Thomas E. Buckman was elected to serve as Acting Director of Extension during his absence.

IN BRIEF

Health

Believing that good health is the primary economic asset of any farm family, Arkansas farm women reported to the Extension Service that 38,440 families in the State maintained a home garden and 23,163 families made out and followed a canning budget to further improve their year-round diet. In addition, the better-babies clubs reported 2,137 more members enrolled last year, making a total of 7,078 preschool children whose mothers are following extension teaching in care, feeding, and training of the children.

Cover-Crops Campaign

More than a million acres of Mississippi soils were under cover this winter, reports L. I. Jones, State extension agronomist. One thing contributing to this record was the State-wide cover-crops campaign held last fall when Mr. Jones and Dan Howell, extension specialist in visual education, held 50 meetings in 33 counties, which were attended by 7,500 people. Sound motion pictures were shown at the meetings and proved an effective means of teaching.

Since the intensive cover-crops campaigns were started by county agents and extension specialists, the planting of winter cover-crop seed has increased from less than 2 million pounds annually to more than 26 million pounds in 1938.

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ON THE CALENDAR

Southern Agricultural Workers' Meeting, Birmingham, Ala., February 7-9.
 American Youth Conference, Washington, D. C., February 9-12.
 National Vocational Guidance Association, St. Louis, Mo., February 21-24.
 Southwest Texas Boys' Fat Stock Show, San Antonio, Tex., February 21-24.
 Department of Visual Instruction, National Education Association, St. Louis, Mo., February 24-29.
 Eastern States Regional Conference, New York, N. Y., February 28-March 2.
 Annual Meeting of Northeastern Dairy Conference, Providence, R. I., March 7-8.
 Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Fort Worth, Tex., March 8-17.
 American Council on Education, Washington, D. C., May 3-4.
 American Library Association, Cincinnati, Ohio, May 26-June 1.
 Eighth American Scientific Congress, Washington, D. C., May 10.

SOME NEW MOTION PICTURES



- These are the titles of a few of the many educational motion pictures released by the Department in recent months.

For information about borrowing or buying films, write to

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